

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR (Caucasus)

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT

Forced Transfer of Soviet Minority Nationalities

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1. In the areas of the USSR overrun by the Germans during World War II, certain minority nationalities collaborated actively with the invaders. Notable among these were the Kalmyks, the Crimean Tatars, the Chechens, and the Ingushi. After the liberation of the areas inhabited by these peoples, the Soviet Government decided to punish them for their disloyalty by liquidating their autonomous governments. To prevent them from aiding any future invader, it was decided to transfer these peoples en masse to the interior of Soviet Siberia. These secret decisions were taken by the Soviet Government in mid-1943.

2. The first group to be affected were the Kalmyks. [redacted] MVD (then NKGB) Colonel Mikhail Stulov, personally took part in this action. Towards the end of 1943, officers from various territorial offices of the then NKGB (oblastnye upravleniya NKGB) were detailed to a special task force which was sent to the Kalmyk ASSR. The job of this group was to prepare the ground for future deportation. For three months or so, they collected the names and addresses of the most anti-Soviet elements among the Kalmyks, studied the terrain, and, in general, made plans for the round-up operation. All of this activity was carried out in secret. In early 1944, detachments of the Special Purpose Division (DON=Diviziya osobogo naznacheniya) of the NKVD were moved into place and, under the guidance of the NKGB task force, carried out the simultaneous round-up of the entire Kalmyk population. The Kalmyks were packed into freight trains assembled for the purpose and shipped off to the Kazakh SSR.

3. The next operation was that involving the Chechen and Ingush minorities.

[redacted] NKGB officers from Siberia and the Far East, detrained near Ordzhonikidze (N 41-22, E 69-22) in early February 1944. Here they were briefed on the job. First, they were told to take off their NKGB insignia, as they were to pass themselves off as engineer officers. They were divided into small groups and assigned to the various districts of the Chechen-Ingush ASSR. Each officer was eventually given an area for which he was solely responsible. The preliminary work consisted of establishing the names and addresses of the most anti-Soviet

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elements, determining the location of "bandit" groups, arms caches, names of all inhabitants, etc. Detachments of the DON were already in place, masquerading as regular soldiers assigned to local defense duties. Every day during early February 1944 the male population throughout the ASSR was assembled and marched out of the towns to dig trenches. This was done to accustom them to the idea of being assembled. The attitude of the local population towards the Soviet authorities was hostile. The throats of several officials were cut and no one ventured forth after dark. The actual round-up took place throughout the Chechen-Ingush ASSR on 15 or 16 February 1944. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] all the males were assembled on the town square as usual early in the morning. There were between 1,500 and 2,000 of them. Once they were assembled they were surrounded by soldiers of the DON detachment. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] group (some 60 officers) then appeared before them and read the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, according to which the Chechen-Ingush ASSR was to be liquidated and its population transferred to Kazakhstan. This news was received with tears and lamentations but no resistance was offered. All individuals were then passed through lines of soldiers, who searched them for weapons, checked their names against previously prepared lists, and escorted them to waiting trains. During the rest of the day the women and children and the aged and infirm were rounded up and also packed into the trains. They were kept separate from the men. Each household was allowed to take 30 kg of baggage. This meant that most of their possessions had to be left behind. By evening everything was silent; the only noise to be heard was the lowing of un milked cows and the howling of abandoned dogs. [redacted] the 25X1

Soviet authorities had been able to assemble such a quantity of railway equipment when the war was still in full swing. The trains were sent off to the Kazakh SSR, guarded by convoy troops of the NKVD. [redacted] 25X1

where they were sent.

4. On 23 February 1944, [redacted] The 25X1
youngest and fittest officers [redacted] and a suitable number of troops 25X1
were sent into the mountains to round up the inhabitants of remote villages. The same procedure was followed. In several cases, however, the inhabitants, who were now forewarned, resisted actively. Several [redacted] 25X1
were killed. Once rounded up, the population of each village was marched down to the foothills, where trucks were waiting to take them to the entraining points. After the main evacuation job had been done, most of the NKGB officers returned to their units. Special task forces (opergruppy) were left behind to clean up the "bandit" groups that were still holding out in the hills. The clean-up operation lasted another six months. During the evacuation there was a considerable amount of looting, especially on the part of local militsiya personnel. Russians from the central oblasts were immediately settled in the 25X1
evacuated towns and villages.
5. Colonel Berdichevskiy (fnu) from Khabarovsk (N 48-30, E 135-06) commanded [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Colonel General Ivan Aleksandrovich Serov, now Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs, was in overall command. Colonel General Sergey Arsenyevich Goglidze and Lieutenant General Mikhail Maksimovich Gvishiani (both liquidated after the fall of L.P. Beriia) also participated.
6. Later in the spring of 1944, the same operation was carried out with the Crimean Tatars. [redacted] they resisted actively and several months were required to complete the operation.
7. Towards the end of 1949 or the beginning of 1950, large numbers of persons were deported from the Baltic States.

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